Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended) A method for validating an address for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), comprising:

accessing a companion file of pre-validated addresses for validating the address;

printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the companion file;

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses in a database;

if the address is not validated based on the companion file, receiving the address from a ~~user at a~~ terminal remote from the database;

accessing the database ~~on an address matching server~~;

comparing the address from the ~~user~~ remote terminal with the database of pre-approved addresses for validating the address;

printing a validated address on the VBI; and

storing information relating to the validated address in ~~a~~ the companion file ~~on the remote terminal~~ upon a validation of the address.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the address comprises importing the address from a database of addresses.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the address from the database of addresses is saved as comma-separated value (CSV) data, and further including:

determining selected characteristics of the database of addresses; and

processing the CSV address data based on the characteristics of the database of addresses.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including:

receiving a second address from the source;

comparing selected information from the second address with stored information in the companion file;

approving the address for use if the selected information corresponds with the stored information in the companion file; and

accessing the database of valid addresses if no match is found.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein comparing the second address with the stored addresses in the companion file comprises determining whether a stored address in the companion file is stale, and rejecting the stored address if it is stale.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein accessing the database comprises accessing a remote database over a communication network.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for matching an address with a database of pre-approved addresses for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), comprising:

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses with a predetermined format in the database;

receiving address data with different formats formatted in accordance with a particular format from a plurality of possible formats;

mapping the received address data with the particular format different formats into a the predetermined format;

comparing the address data in the predetermined format with pre-approved addresses in the database for validating the address;

presenting the results for selection by a user, if one or more matches are found; and

printing the a selected address on the VBI.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein comparing data in the predetermined format with valid addresses in the database comprises accessing a remote database of addresses over a communication network.

20. (Original)   The method of claim 19, wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

21. (Original)   The method of claim 18, wherein manipulating comprises applying a plurality of query permuters to the address data to convert the data into respective formats.

22. (Original)   The method of claim 21, wherein applying a plurality of query permuters comprises applying at least one of a direct permuter and a single line permuter to the address data.

23. (Original)   The method of claim 22, wherein applying further comprises applying a truncate permuter to the output structure of the direct permuter.

24.-48.   (Cancelled)

49. (New)   A method for validating an address for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), comprising:

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses in a database;

receiving the address from a user using a terminal remote from the database;

authenticating the user using a cryptographic module remote from the terminal and communicating with the terminal over a wide area network;

accessing the database from a server communicating with the terminal over the wide area network;

comparing the address from the user with the database of pre-approved addresses for validating the address; and

printing a validated address on the VBI.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising storing information relating to the validated address in a the companion file upon a validation of the address.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein receiving the address comprises importing the address from a database of addresses.

52. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

receiving a second address from the user;

comparing selected information from the second address with stored information in the companion file;

approving the address for use if the selected information corresponds with the stored information in the companion file; and

accessing the database of valid addresses if no match is found.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein comparing the second address with the stored addresses in the companion file comprises determining whether a stored address in the companion file is stale, and rejecting the stored address if it is stale.